



County of Santa Cruz

GENERAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 330, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4073

(831) 454-2210 FAX: (831) 454-2710 TDD: (831) 454-2123

NANCY GORDON, DIRECTOR

November 24, 2009

Agenda: December 15, 2009

Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

County Fire Fixed Asset Substitution

Dear Members of the Board:

During 2009-10 budget hearings, your Board authorized County Fire to purchase a water tender per the County Fire Department vehicle replacement plan. During its November 18, 2009 meeting, the Fire Department Advisory Commission recommended County Fire purchase a Type 1 fire engine under the same statewide contract used successfully for last year's engine purchase under the replacement plan. The reason for substituting the Type 1 fire engine for the approved water tender is the same as last year: the Type 1 fire engine will provide the most versatility for County Fire emergency response and mutual aid, since, unlike a water tender, it carries an equipment complement capable of structure fire fighting, vehicle extrication, and other types of emergency response. This Type 1 fire engine also carries 850 gallons of water and would be a "sister" fire engine to the one purchased last fiscal year, providing some standardization for the County Fire Department fleet and for regional mutual aid purposes. Staff is in the process of rewriting the current vehicle replacement plan based on industry standards and countywide mutual aid obligations. The Type 1 fire engine is scheduled for deployment at the Bonny Doon McDermott Fire Station, providing the County with a planned replacement vehicle in line with operational objectives.

Staff are pleased to report that a one time opportunity for purchasing such a replacement engine has been identified that will result in a multitude of benefits to the fire fleet at a significant savings. As your Board is aware, staff will be returning on January 26, 2010 with a full report on County Fire funding, including both the current status of the fire fund and plans for meeting replacement schedules for needed vehicles and equipment. Based on our preliminary work, staff has confirmed that sufficient funds are available for this purchase now for the Type 1 engine purchase utilizing the statewide contract. Typically, when an engine is ordered under this contract, it is approximately one year before delivery of the completed engine. However, the one time purchasing opportunity is for a finished Type 1 fire engine built under this contract and used for demonstration purposes; it is available for immediate purchase and could be delivered 30 days after receipt of the purchase order, which represents a unusually fast turnaround for deployment and response capability. To take advantage of this particular engine acquisition, the County must complete the purchase order contract prior to December 31, 2009.

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County Fire Fixed Asset Substitution

By purchasing the engine before the end of this calendar year, the County will realize the benefit of both the availability of a completed Type 1 engine and an estimated price savings of \$150,000 when compared to delaying the purchase to next year. Additionally, staff notes that, after 2009, new fire engines will be configured differently. The County Fire staff recommendation will be to not purchase these essentially prototype, new generation models for several years until all unanticipated flaws are resolved.

In summary, purchasing the demonstration Type 1 fire engine through this one time opportunity under the state wide contract prior to December 31, 2009 will provide a vehicle that will meet County Fire's strategic vehicle replacement plan objectives, represent an investment in the fire fleet's longevity, be cost effective and well within the allocated budget, and ready for deployment in early 2010.

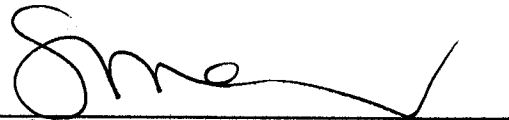
It is therefore RECOMMENDED that your Board authorize County Fire to purchase a Type 1 fire engine in place of a water tender as specified during the 2009/10 budget hearings.

Very truly yours,



Nancy Gordon
Director

Recommended:



SUSAN A. MAURIELLO
County Administrative Officer

NCG/DM

cc: Auditor-Controller
County Fire Department
Fire Department Advisory Commission

CBD BOSMAIL

From: CBD BOSMAIL
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2009 4:56 PM
To: CBD BOSMAIL
Subject: Agenda Comments

Meeting Date : 12/15/2009

Item Number : 23

Name : Stanley Sokolow

Email : stanley@thesokolows.com

Address : 301 Highview Ct,
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Phone : 831-423-1417

Comments :

As a homeowner in CSA 48, I support this proposal for taking advantage of this fire engine purchase opportunity.

The letter mentions that County Fire staff is working on to be presented Jan 26, 2010, detailing the plan to meet the replacement schedule for fire vehicles. I wish to remind the Board that when County Fire presented its report for the CSA 48 assessment ballot last time, I submitted a spreadsheet showing the annual cash needs for replacements according to the retirement dates given by County Fire. The County Fire report did not show the year-by-year outflows and inflows, but instead just asked for a large sum that would be borrowed by a revenue anticipation bond and would be held in an account until purchases were made in subsequent years. I showed that the assessment proposed to service the bond was far larger than would be needed if the purchases were made on a pay-as-you-go basis with minor re-scheduling of a few replacements by a year or so. I hereby request that the Board ask County Fire staff that the upcoming report include a projected cash-flow spreadsheet showing annual assessment income and annual expenditures in the vehicle replacement program.

Sincerely,
Stanley M. Sokolow

Laura Guerrero

From: Neal Coonerty
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2009 12:33 PM
To: Laura Guerrero
Subject: FW: BofS Agenda of 12-15-2009 - Item #23, Fire Engine Purchase

Please circulate to Board for tomorrow's agenda. -Neal

-----Original Message-----

From: rmackey411@comcast.net [mailto:rmackey411@comcast.net]
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2009 8:01 PM
To: Neal Coonerty
Cc: John Ferreira; Rachel Dann; Kim Smith; Tom Scully; Joe Christy
Subject: BofS Agenda of 12-15-2009 - Item #23, Fire Engine Purchase

Supervisor Neal Coonerty
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz CA 95060

December 13, 2009

Via Email, Supervisor Neal Coonerty <BDS031@co.santa-cruz.ca.us>

Dear Neal,

We support the proposal by General Services Director Nancy Gordon to purchase a Type 1 Fire Engine to be deployed at the McDermott Volunteer Station in Bonny Doon, as recommended in Item #23 on your board's agenda for December 15, 2009.

Currently, the front-line county owned engine located at McDermott is a 1987 model that is the OLDEST such engine in the county fleet, and is well past all county standards for replacement.

We recognize that this proposal, if accepted, would be the second time in two years that a Type 1 engine has been substituted for the planned purchase of a water tender. Last year the new engine was deployed at the Corralitos Station.

The proposed water tender was to have been an upgrade to the current Corralitos water tender. On November 18, 2008 (at agenda item #21) your board received a report from General Services explaining why the need for a water tender upgrade was less than the need for a Type 1 engine. Those reasons remain valid today.

Both this year and last year, General Services has found and secured exceptional pricing on Type 1 engines. It is estimated that immediate purchase of the replacement engine to be deployed at the McDermott Volunteer Station will SAVE some \$150,000 over the expected cost of such an engine ordered after January 1, 2010.

We ask that you support this proposal, as it is vital to maintaining the outstanding work done by the Bonny Doon Volunteers.

Sincerely,
Russ Mackey

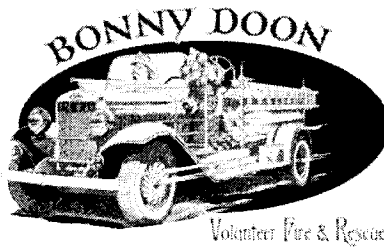
Rmackey411@comcast.net

12/14/2009

#23

831.427.1630
For Friends of Bonny Doon Fire

cc:
John Ferreira <John.Ferreira@fire.ca.gov>
Rachel Dann <BDS032@co.santa-cruz.ca.us;>
GSD MGR. Nancy Gordon <gsd454@co.santa-cruz.ca.us>,
Tom Scully <tomscully@comcast.net>
Joe Christy <joe@eshu.net>



December 12, 2009

Supervisor Neal Coonerty
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Dear Neal,

On behalf of the Bonny Doon Volunteer Fire/Rescue, Inc., I request your support of the proposal by the General Services Director to purchase a Type 1 fire engine to be housed and deployed at the Bonny Doon Volunteer Fire and Rescue McDermott Station as proposed on the December 15, 2009 County Board Agenda, Item #23.

Sincerely,

Rob
Robert Caldeira
Chairman, Bonny Doon Volunteer Fire/Rescue, Inc.

#23